

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The invention provides an isolated gene and an isolated nucleic acid sequence encoding human Bad and functional fragments thereof. Also provided is an isolated human Bad polypeptide and functional fragments thereof. Methods of identifying human Bad binding partners and methods of screening for compounds which interfere with the association of human Bad interacting polypeptides with human Bad are also provided. Finally, methods for decreasing or increasing the viability of a cell are provided as well.